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Sub-Saharan Africa

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Ministers Adopt Resolution Critical of Devaluation

AB0203200194 Paris AFP in French 1309 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Libreville, 2 Mar (AFP)—The fifth conference of African finance ministers today severely criticized the recent "substantial and uncoordinated" devaluation of the CFA franc. The criticisms are contained in the resolution the participants adopted in Libreville on the last day of the meeting held under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

During the public examination of the draft resolution, only Cote d'Ivoire's delegation intervened for the removal of the portion saying that "sudden, substantial, and uncoordinated devaluations are inefficient solutions in the African context." Also, Cote d'Ivoire did not want the resolution to say that the devaluation of the CFA franc was "caused by external and internal pressures on African countries."

In the text that was adopted, the ministers and their representatives called on the IMF and the World Bank to henceforth take "a critical look at the issue of efficiency of substantial devaluations in African countries. This is mainly in view of the inflexible structures of the continent's economies and, in particular, the steady fall in the prices of basic cash crops."

The resolution also stressed the "negative effects of substantial and non-coordinated devaluations on inter-regional cooperation and integration" when describing the 50-percent devaluation of the CFA franc decided on 11 January.

Global Coalition Committees Meet in Cotonou

AB0103170694 Dakar PANA in English 1543 GMT 1 Mar 94

[By Randy Zormelo]

[Text] Cotonou, 1 Mar (PANA)—Beninois President Nicephore Soglo said Tuesday [1 March] in Cotonou that African countries must unite to collectively meet the challenge of development or perish. He was opening the committee meetings of the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA) in the Beninois economic capital.

The committees are governance and democracy chaired by Soglo and economic reform policies chaired by Ghana's finance and economic planning minister, Kwesi Botchwey.

Soglo said African countries are currently facing economic and financial crises of an unprecedented dimension. He said all the political and economic reform efforts and sacrifices so far made by them have been reduced to nought. "Our countries are facing an imminent social upheaval and we are left with no choice but to unite or perish," Soglo told delegates attending the four-day GCA meeting.

Launched in Kampala, Uganda, in 1990, the GCA seeks to improve the working partnership existing between African and developing countries in economic and development-related fields.

Soglo said the recent devaluation of the CFA franc which was not originally on the meeting's agenda was placed at the last minute because of its obvious implications for economic reform in the countries concerned. Pegged to the French franc since 1948, the CFA franc which the common currency for 14 francophone countries in West and Central Africa and the Comoros, was devalued in January by 50 percent, seriously hurting the already fragile economies of these countries.

The Beninois president said despite follow-up measures taken including debt reduction, increased investment and reasonable control of price increases, the situation remains "extremely serious." Soglo said a devaluation of this magnitude is difficult to manage and is bound to cause social tension. "We should exchange ideas and experiences to make the devaluation of the CFA a positive change and a new opportunity for economic development instead of considering it as catastrophe."

Soglo said his committee will present a comprehensive study on self-evaluation of governance and democracy. The document, which will be presented to African governments, contains concrete measures to meet the challenge of effective governance and transition to democratic rule.

The committee on economic reform policies is expected to discuss structural adjustment and economic reforms and a strategy for agricultural development in Africa.

More than 100 delegates are attending the committee meetings. Also in attendance are three former heads of state—Amadou Toure of Mali, Pierre Buyoya of Burundi, and Aristides Pereira of Cape Verde.

Cameroon**Opposition Leader on Need To Solve Border Dispute**

LD0203145294 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Excerpts] The European Union is asking Nigeria and Cameroon to go to international arbitration or mediation to settle their border dispute. [passage omitted]

Yesterday Nigerian President Sani Abacha received a high-level French delegation; Paris is trying to calm things down, though it has sent a few paratroopers to Cameroon, which the Nigerians do not seem to like. They said yesterday after the meeting that they favored a friendly settlement to the border dispute, but without outside assistance. This attitude is more or less shared by John Fru Ndi, one of the main opposition leaders in Cameroon. John Fru Ndi was interviewed by our colleagues in RFI's English section:

[Begin Fru Ndi recording, in English with superimposed French translation] I think that French intervention is not desirable at the moment. We think that Cameroon and Nigeria, as African countries, can try to settle the dispute between them with the help of the OAU, rather than by asking for the help of a third country, especially France. If France has to come in, where is the sovereignty of Cameroon? [end recording] [passage omitted]

Central African Republic**Patasse Returns, Comments on Franc Zone Summit**

AB0203221294 Bangui Radiodiffusion-Télévision Centrafricaine Radio in French 1800 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Upon his return from Libreville, Gabon, where he attended the summit of Central African heads of state on the consequences of the devaluation of the CFA franc, President Ange Felix Patasse announced the creation in the days ahead of the Economic and Monetary Commission of Central Africa [CEMAC]. He also spoke of the devaluation of the CFA franc, the backup measures being implemented, and the effects of the monetary adjustment on the balance sheet of the Bank of Central African States [BEAC]. He also mentioned the steps to take in response to the presentation of the experts' report on economic and monetary integration. Taking stock of the summit, the president stated that the Libreville meeting helped adopt practical steps to implement the backup measures. [passage omitted]

Analyzing the incidence of the monetary adjustment on the balance sheet of the BEAC, the heads of state noted the negative effects that the new exchange rate has had on their transaction accounts, all of which are now in debt. Central Africa, President Patasse said, is lagging behind its West African counterparts and its issuing bank is not doing well, mainly because of the selfishness

of some states. This attitude has worsened to such extent that the BEAC's balance relies on the fragile economies of two states in the subregion.

[Begin Patasse recording] It is very easy to note that Central Africa is ill as a result of the selfishness shown by each of the subregional states. As a result of exaggerated nationalism in the subregion, Central Africa is now lagging far behind West Africa. I stress that if Central Africa does not realize the danger we will get lost, and that is the main lesson to draw from our Libreville meeting. When you analyze the report presented by the BEAC governor, you will note that the Central Bank hinges on the CAR in the first place and then on Chad. When we take into account the transaction accounts, we can say that as far as the Central African Region is concerned there is a deficit. It is thanks to our country that the Central Bank survives. But we must avoid boasting because the essential element needed first of all is solidarity. [end recording]

The main decisions made by the heads of state in Libreville include: checking increasing inflation, reducing increases in the prices of essential commodities, and negotiating with the IMF the possibilities of ensuring an influx of funds to Central Africa necessary to reestablish financial balance in the subregion. But the main announcement that the head of state made was the creation in the days ahead of the CEMAC. The heads of state agreed on the examination of two draft texts to be submitted to them for signature in order to rapidly put in place the institutions of the new community. All this is expected to be ready for the next summit slated for Ndjamena. Let us listen to the president again:

[Begin Patasse recording] We will find solutions to our problems. We will meet in Ndjamena in one or two week's time, and we will find solutions. We have transcended the chauvinist stage to tackle major problems confronting all of us, that is how we will create the CEMAC. That is the main point of our meeting in Libreville. We also examined security problems in the subregion. Concerning this point, there are the examples of our Chadian brothers that we have accepted on our territory and the Cameroon-Nigeria conflict. These are the current problems, but we are convinced that if political will exists in such a way that we can pool our resources to rejuvenate Central Africa, I am convinced that we shall overcome micro-nationalism which constitutes an obstacle to Central Africa's development. [end recording]

Rwanda**Security Committee Curtails Kigali Curfew**

EA0203192394 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la République Rwandaise in Kinyarwanda 1700 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The Kigali Town Security Committee today met under the chairmanship of the prefect of Kigali,

Colonel Tharcisse Renzaho. The committee decided to curtail the curfew in the town. Beginning Wednesday [2 March] the curfew will start at 2200 and end at 0500 in the Kigali Town Prefecture. [passage omitted]

UN Representative Meets With RPF Officials

EA0203172194 Kigali Radiodiffusion Nationale de la Republique Rwandaise in French 1115 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The UN secretary general's special representative to Rwanda, Dr. Jacques Roger Booh-Booh, has called on the parties that signed the Arusha peace agreement to redouble their efforts so as to find a solution to the current deadlock as soon as possible. Mr. Booh-Booh renewed his call yesterday 1 March at the end of a meeting in Mulindi with Rwandan Patriotic Front [RPF] senior political and military officials. During talks that lasted two hours, the UN secretary general's special representative reminded the RPF officials about the need to give greater importance to dialogue, to demonstrate the logic of peace and to prepare themselves for acceptable political compromises.

According to a communique issued on 28 February in Mulindi, the RPF declared itself prepared to take part in the transitional institutions provided that the deputies of the Liberal Party ratified on 4 January 1994 by the Constitutional Court was maintained. The RPF condemned the current high level of violence in the country and denounced the manipulations aimed at changing the balance of political forces as stipulated in the Arusha peace agreement. [passage omitted]

Zaire

Anti-Mobutu 'Resistance Struggle' Said Imminent

*AB0203175094 Paris AFP in French 1602 GMT
2 Mar 94*

[Text] Luanda, 2 Mar (AFP)—The Zairian radical opposition will launch "an armed resistance struggle" in the near future to "paralyze the country" considering "the failure of the inter-Zairian political negotiations,"

Jacques Matanda, chairman of the Convention of Nationalist Reformers, one of the components of the Sacred Union of the Radical Opposition, said today in Luanda.

These political negotiations were only "stage-managed by the Zairian political class" comprising "90 percent of Mobutu supporters," Matanda added at a news conference. He described Monsignor Monsengwo, under whose auspices the negotiations took place, as a "traitor". According to Matanda, the bishop "betrayed the civilian, military, and religious population's confidence," adding that the negotiations also served to get rid of Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi.

The Zairian opposition is capable of "overthrowing President Mobutu," and they do not need troops to do so. "They only have to paralyze the sensitive areas by blowing up fuel pipelines, the rail lines or the high tension pylons." Matanda said "Mobutu has an army which has been reduced to its simplest form, in a miserable state." He said "Mobutu can be overthrown, the most important thing is to start it." Jacques Matanda, however, admitted the existence "of divergent views within the opposition."

Matanda also spoke about the support given by the Angolan authorities to Zairian "nationalists" who had launched an armed attack on the province of Shaba (extreme south of Zaire) in March 1977. Nathaniel Mbumba's National Front for the Liberation of Shaba had the "blessing of the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola and particularly that of the defunct President Agostinho Neto," Matanda pointed out. Luanda had several times denied Kinshasa's accusations of the presence of Katangese maquisards in Angola.

Furthermore, Matanda said that soldiers from the Zairian president's special division unit fought on the side of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] for the capture of the oil town of Soyo (northern Angola). "Most of the soldiers fighting in northern Angola" with UNITA come from Zaire, Matanda added.

EAST AFRICA

Eritrea

National Assembly Decides To Form New Cabinet

EA0203193294 Asmara Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 1600 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Eritrean National Assembly this afternoon extensively debated legal Decree 37 of 1993 on the establishment, powers, and duties of the Eritrean Government, and decided to set up a new cabinet. The National Assembly, which is meeting for the fourth time, was opened this morning by President Isayas Afewerki. According to its agenda, the assembly discussed land tenure, the constitution, press laws, issues arising from the new administrative divisions, disbanding of the assembly set up by provincial administrators and ministers, and then decided to set up a new cabinet. The ministries of transport and tourism formed under the former establishment are not abolished. [sentence as heard] The Eritrean News Agency says the fourth session of the National Assembly will tomorrow morning debate land tenure and the establishment of a constitutional commission, starting from 0900 local time.

Somalia

SNA Spokesman Accuses UNOSOM of Inciting Attacks

EA0203203094 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Great Somali People in Somali 1700 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] A Somali National Alliance [SNA] senior spokesman has said that some surrogates taking orders from elements of UN Operation in Somalia [UNOSOM] have attacked residents of some areas of Galguduud area in Dhuusa Mareeb town. The SNA senior spokesman said that in their attacks on districts in Galguduud region, the elements massacred innocent and defenseless people while destroying much property. The spokesman said the attack had been organized by UNOSOM in an effort to stir up confrontations between the communities in the various regions of Somalia. It was also a violation of the cease-fire agreed by the Somali people in the Addis Ababa Accord and the agreement of the central regions of Somalia by the supporters of SNA, Somali Salvation Democratic Front, and Somali National Democratic Union signed following the 28 May to 4 June 1993 peace conference in Mogadishu. In conclusion, the SNA senior spokesman called on the Somali people in Galguduud region to avoid becoming victims of UNOSOM's treacherous maneuvers aimed at creating renewed friction among the Somali people, who were in dire need of peace and justice.

Aidid Meets With Envoys, Leaves for Nairobi

EA0203191694 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Great Somali People in Somali 1700 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The leader of the Somali National Alliance, SNA, who is also the chairman of the United Somali Congress, USC, Mohamed Farrah Aidid and his large delegation left Addis Ababa International Airport today for Nairobi, Kenya.

While in Addis Ababa, Mr. Aidid held talks with the French, Russian, Chinese, Italian, and Egyptian ambassadors to Ethiopia, based in Addis Ababa, whom he briefed on the situation in Somalia and his talks in Nairobi with the various groups of the Somali community. He also briefed them on the agreement he had reached with the leaders of Somali groups, an agreement based on understanding, collaboration and mutual respect, far removed from earlier mutually antagonistic attitudes.

Asked by the Egyptian ambassador to Ethiopia why he would not be attending the Cairo meeting, Chairman Aidid replied that the SNA was not attending the conference organized by the Egyptian Government in Cairo, because the meeting violated the OAU Cairo agreement, which provided for the issue of the Somali people to be left to the leaders of the Horn of Africa and the Somalis themselves. The chairman went on to say that the Cairo conference would have a disruptive influence on the ongoing talks of the Somali people in Nairobi, Kenya. Chairman Aidid said that the talks of the Somali leaders in Nairobi were being supported and participated in by the leaders of the countries of the Horn of Africa.

Aidid called on the Egyptian Government to stop interfering in the internal affairs of the Somali people. He said if Egypt really wanted to help the Somali people, the Egyptian Government should support and implement the December 1993 accord reached in Cairo, Egypt. The accord authorized the presidents of the countries of Horn of Africa to find a lasting solution to the crisis prevailing in Somalia and allow Somalis to decide their own destiny.

Uganda

Rebels Kidnap Priest, Attack Travelers in North

EA0203161594 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in Swahili 1300 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Catholic church in Uganda says a priest and three Ugandan nuns have been kidnapped in the north of the country. A church spokesman said the father and nuns were kidnapped in Lira District by members of a religious sect calling itself Lord's Resistance [two preceding words in English], who were followers of the religious sect of Alice Lakwena in the 1980s.

Rebels in Uganda have increased attacks against soldiers and civilians since peace talks with the government collapsed last month.

Priest Released

*AB0203181594 Paris AFP in English 1731 GMT
2 Mar 94*

[Text] Kampala, March 2 (AFP)—Rebels have freed a kidnapped Spanish priest but seriously wounded an unspecified number of travellers in an attack in northern Uganda, a church source and press reports said here Wednesday [2 March].

The rebels, led by Joseph Kony, on Monday ambushed a vehicle operating a daily passenger service between Lira and Kitgum, at Ludel and subsequently set it ablaze, witnesses said according to the NEW VISION newspaper. Some of the passengers, who were badly injured, said a group of about 50 rebels jumped on to the road ahead of the vehicle and opened fire, shooting sporadically both in the air and at the vehicle.

The vehicle's driver was hit in the arm by two bullets while the conductor got a hard kick on the knee from one of the rebels who had taken cover in the nearby bush.

Earlier in the day, the rebels abducted and held hostage two Roman Catholic missionaries, Spaniard Luigi Paolino Aguilera and another unnamed black priest, together with two nuns from Lira's Paranga mission, reports said.

The papal envoy here, reached by telephone by the Italian news agency ANSA, said Father Aguilera had

returned safe and sound to the Kitgum mission, 380 kilometres (about 240 miles) north of Kampala.

Aguilera, a member of the Comboniani order based at Padua in northern Italy, was held by the rebels for just one day, but subjected to five hours of "indoctrination" in the bush before he was set free, ANSA reported. The Italian news agency said the two nuns were still in the hands of the rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), but made no mention of the black priest also said to have been abducted.

Other reports here said that at least one of the priests had been released, but a Ugandan Catholic Secretariat spokesman could not be reached for further details.

NEW VISION said two priests and two nuns were held hostage by the rebels apparently for use as human shields in the event of an attack by government forces.

Security sources in Lira said on Wednesday that government troops based at Pajule, 15 kilometres (12 miles) from the scene of the incident, moved swiftly in pursuit, but arrived late and only managed to find the vehicle in which the priests had been travelling.

The attack on travellers is seen by the people in the area as an attempt by the rebels to make their presence in the region felt, a gesture that would form the basis for future negotiations with the government.

The LRA, a remnant of the voodoo priestess Alice Lakwena's Holy Spirit Army, has stepped up attacks on government forces since February 19, after negotiations with the government broke down.

On February 13, President Yoweri Museveni gave the rebels one week to surrender or else face the might of the Ugandan army.

Constitutional, Electoral Amendments Approved

MB0203124994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Amendment Bill and the Electoral Amendment Bill have both been approved by Parliament.

The Constitutional Bill was approved by 115 votes to 33, while the Electoral Bill was approved by 170 votes to 28. Dissenting parties to the Constitutional Bill in the House of Assembly were the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP], the Conservative Party [CP] and Independent MP's aligned to the Afrikaner Volksfront [Afrikaner National Front—AVF]. The CP reiterated its rejection of the amendments saying they had been inspired by communists. CP leader, Dr. Ferdie Hartzenberg, said that the constitution provided for a unitary state and that none of the amendments changed this.

The National Party [NP] and the Democratic Party [DP] supported the bill saying the Freedom Alliance had received everything it had asked for. The amendments, among other things, grant further regional powers, introduced the principle of a volkstaat [homeland], and permit a double ballot. The five IFP members in the house joined the NP, DP, and ANC [African National Congress] in voting for the Electoral Bill. It was opposed by members of the CP caucus and independent MP's aligned to the AVF.

Parliament also approved a resolution empowering the state president to extend the operation of the 1990 Indemnity Act for a further year until 17 May 1995.

Further Sessions Ruled Out

MB0303070794 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] State President F.W. de Klerk has ruled out a reconvening of parliament before the election next month. Speaking at a news conference at Tuynhuys in Cape Town he said the constitution had been amended to accommodate the demands of the Freedom Alliance, and that it was now up to the Alliance to make a tangible contribution.

ANC, IFP Officials on Mandela-Buthelezi Meeting

MB0203154694 Johannesburg SABC CCV TV Network in English 1730 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Interview with IFP Chairman Frank Mdlalose and ANC Deputy Secretary General Jacob Zuma by SABC announcer Leslie Mashokwe in the Durban studio—live]

[Text] [Mashokwe] Tonight we welcome you from our studios in Durban, where we've had a historic meeting between the leader of the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party], Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and the president of the ANC [African National Congress], Dr. Nelson Mandela. All sorts of agreements have been reached, which are

said to be provisional, still going to be checked with their principals. [passage omitted] It was said throughout the day that the two leaders were smiling and holding each other's hand as if promising South Africa something that they could be proud of—smiling about. I'm being joined now in the studio by Mr. Jacob Zuma, Deputy Secretary General of the ANC, and the national chairman of the IFP, Dr. Mdlalose. Gentlemen, good evening and welcome. The progress—what sort progress are we talking about here if you look at this statement, Dr. Mdlalose?

[Mdlalose] Well, I think there's progress. First, I think the spirit in which the leaders discussed, the spirit in which the delegations intermingled and discussed was very, very promising; it was really good. And when we came to the actual substance of things that we went into, there was no skirting of issues. Issues were dealt with straight on, and people spoke honestly, and they spoke from their hearts but through their brains. They were not emotional; they were being realistic. And I think a lot of progress came out.

[Mashokwe] Mr. Zuma, how would you describe the kind of progress we are talking about here, constructive or satisfactory?

[Zuma] I think it was both, more constructive in a sense because both delegations approached the matters in a very serious manner with all the determination to find a solution. And I think that issues were discussed very frankly, and I think both delegations realized the responsibility that the two organizations have in connection with trying to solve the problems of the country, trying to deal with matters of violence, and I think what has been reflected in the statement as the kind of understanding in a joint statement actually reflects I think in a very exceptional manner a kind of....[pauses] The two delegations sat down and said we need to find a solution. A kind of a delegation that said we are not sitting here now to find a solution now, we said we are making a solid foundation so that this meeting is not going to be a one-off meeting, is actually the beginning of a process that is going to move now and, if needed, to go beyond the 27th of April. I thought that was quite a realistic approach that both delegations realized and indeed were determined to continue as much as possible—in search for the solution.

[Mashokwe] Gentlemen, let us now leave out the diplomatic issues and tell South Africans the real story. When you say you are out to promote conditions in which people of South Africa as a whole could exercise their democratic right and to make political choices in accordance with their beliefs and consciousness, what exactly do you mean? You're saying the ANC can put up boards and advertise in Ulundi, open an office there. Can the ANC also reciprocate in the same way? What exactly do you mean?

[Mdlalose] But that's exactly what we mean, Lesley. We mean that people should be free to give their own philosophies to the public. People should be free to

advocate for participation in elections if they want to and to promote their own philosophies. But equally, we think people must be free to be able to say why they may not be wanting to participate if they do not want to participate. That freedom should be there for everybody and they should be able to say it whether at Ulundi, or around Shell House, or wherever, without any fear.

[Mashokwe] Are you saying to your followers out there that they must from tomorrow allow the ANC in your areas and in the same vein the ANC remove their no-go areas wherever they may be?

[Mdlalose] Our party has been saying that all the time, and we want to redouble our efforts to let the people know that is what we stand for.

[Mashokwe] No-go areas, Mr. Zuma, within the ANC?

[Zuma] What we've been saying Lesley, is that in the period running up to where we are, we've had a situation where perceptions have been created that if political players are saying we are not participating in the elections, it means that those who are participating must be stopped from doing so, and those who are not participating must also not be given a chance to canvas their own views among the people on the reasons why they are not participating. What this meeting has said—which I think is important—it has underlined an important principle of democracy that people have a right to choose whether to participate or not to participate. But those who are participating don't have a right to prevent others to choose not to participate. And we are saying the question of no-go areas therefore must go. People must be able to reach any part of this country, in this province, and promote any of these two views, that we see as opposing views. And this is what we've said. We've said it doesn't necessarily mean that people must slaughter one another simply because they've got two political different views. And I think it is an important kind of an achievement that we made in this meeting.

[Mashokwe] But what the leaders say and what happens at the ground are two different things. You've been professing freedom of political expression on both sides, yet on the ground IFP supporters will not allow ANC supporters to politic in their areas and vice versa. How do you get the message down to the ground.

[Mdlalose] Well, as we've said earlier, we are going to redouble our efforts to get to the ground. We are preaching even as I'm talking to you now, preaching through the TV that people are watching. They have to be tolerant one to the other. Whether you belong to ANC, IFP, Azapo [Azanian People's Organization], PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress], whatever, you must be able to listen to the other man and say he's entitled to explain his views to everybody around here. That is the message we're carrying on to the people wherever we are going to be.

[Mashokwe] It is evident that there are still differences on constitutional matters between the two parties here.

There was talk about possible intervention by the international constitutional experts. What exactly gives? How are you going to unbundle this mess?

[Mdlalose] Thank you for asking that. First of all, we have discussed this and we've thought of an option that is before us—to consult with international organizations and get them perhaps to help us to see through this impasse which we've reached. We have not reached unanimity on that point. The ANC people are going to discuss it among themselves. We'll also discuss it more fully among ourselves and be able next time we meet to come up with definite ideas about how we must approach this subject.

[Mashokwe] On that question of calling in international experts, Mr. Zuma?

[Zuma] We've certainly agreed that we need to take these two points to our principals: one, the issue that is being raised of the involvement of the international community at two levels. One level is at the level of violence—in other words, to seek to reach the international community, an organization with the expertise of conflict resolution as well as the aspect of the deadlock on constitutional matters. And we've said we will take these matters to our principals to be considered and come back after that consideration to say how our principals look at those matters, and equally the IFP has felt, as a result of that kind of a discussion, there could be a provisional registration of the IFP in terms of the Electoral Act so that if agreement is reached, they are in a position to find it to participate. I think all of that indicates or gives you the chemistry of the discussions today that we were able to reach that point and have this kind of particular aspect to be referred to our principals.

[Mashokwe] I want to come back to this issue of provisional registration later after the break, but for now, how binding would the views of the experts be? In mediation I would imagine that if you say yes, this is what the expert say then it is binding on both of you. Have you reached that stage when you will say what the experts say binds both of you?

[Mdlalose] Actually we've reached that point. We've said there will be no point in approaching international experts if at the end of the day when they have given us their point of view we would say but I didn't accept that. We would be able to accept their point of view.

[Zuma] Definitely. That is what we discussed, and that's what we came to understand.

[Mashokwe] And Mr. Zuma, Mr. Mdlalose, I have to go back to an ad break, I'll be back just after this. Don't go away. [commercial break]

Gentlemen, let's talk about this issue of provisional registration of the IFP. Time is against you, 4 March is the deadline again. Will it be possible for you to have registered by then, or do you depend on the outcome of mediation?

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[Mdlalose] Well, the issue of provisional registration is to be discussed by the IFP's central committee. If we decide we should make provisional registration, we will do so. That of course must clearly be understood not to mean commitment to taking part in the elections. It means commitment to saying, we put our name there, and if at the end of the road we decide we are going to go in for elections, we are clear that we go in for elections. But later on if we find that there is no way we can undertake to do elections, then we don't.

[Mashokwe] It seems to water down this whole historic agreement, as it were. It will look like you are saying, we may come in, we may not. What would push you to come in?

[Mdlalose] But we have been very clear about that. We have said it so many, many times, that there are a number of things that we have placed before the government and we have placed before the African National Congress, and when those things are undertaken we march on to elections. Before they are undertaken, we have got problems.

[Mashokwe] Is this not a new ball game now from the one that....

[Mdlalose, interrupting] A new ball game?

[Mashokwe] Yes, are we talking about new things in this one?

[Mdlalose] Oh no, come, we placed our ideas and our suggestions before the government and before the ANC a long time ago, and we consolidated them on 19 December 1993. We put them in black and white in what we call the Yellow Paper. Everybody knows about that. A new ball game? That's surprising!

[Mashokwe] I am trying to understand one little thing. What are your non-negotiables as the IFP?

[Mdlalose] We have put those papers to the whole world. We are saying, so far as the constitution is concerned the provinces must have powers, and those powers must be unfettered, and they should be able to be exercised by those provinces even in the future, not to be removed so easily by the central government without the proper acceptance by the provinces themselves, and by all the structures of government. Secondly, we are saying in order that those functions may be exercised the provinces must have power to have money, to collect money, that is, the fiscal powers of the provinces must be enhanced. Thirdly, we are saying the provinces as such must be able to have their own constitution, and to have a constitution, of course, in line with the general constitution of the whole country, but they must be able to make up their own constitutions and put them before everybody.

[Mashokwe] But have these things not been addressed by these concessions?

[Mdlalose] No, no. No, no. They have not been sufficiently addressed.

[Mashokwe] The ANC, why don't you give the IFP what they want so that we march on to elections come 27 April? Is it difficult?

[Zuma] Leslie, I don't think it is a question of giving the IFP what they want, it's a question of negotiating. I think we have been involved in negotiations for quite a long time, including the very package that the ANC has announced in the recent past, which is again an indication of how flexible the ANC can be. And I think the very fact that we had a meeting today is an indication that all of us are keen to discuss and find one another in the process. I think what is critical in negotiations is a spirit of being ready to give as well as take, and I think this is what we are doing, and this is what we would like all parties to be able to do, and I think we have done that, and I think we are in the process of perhaps even looking at the responses that the IFP is making to our package that we have come up with.

[Mashokwe] Mr. Zuma, Dr. Mdlalose says here and now that those concessions do not meet with their demands, therefore the two of you are not finding each other yet. What else do you have to do? Do you know what you have to do in order to meet their demands? Are you prepared to do that?

[Zuma] I think what we are prepared to do is to debate the issues. I am not certain whether we have had enough time with the IFP to sit down and look even at what the IFP says, it doesn't mean anything, because if we debated the matters we might actually emerge with a position where we could be even much closer. I think it is a question of us looking at this package, and looking at the criticism that the IFP is leveling against the package, and arguing back, because we do not believe if one has heard some noises, that all the objections that the IFP is making are not debatable. We think they are still debatable, and I am sure they would feel the same.

[Mashokwe] I see that you know in your hand, but could I just go back to Mr. Zuma? You've had a chance with the 19 December—the Yellow Paper that is being stated here. Have you addressed their concerns? Are going to be addressing these concerns at all?

[Zuma] We have, we have addressed the concerns, and this is what we are saying—negotiations, ever since they began more than two years ago, the business has been to address the concerns of other parties, and I think it goes on. And I think even the fact that today we have come to discuss some possibility of the international kind of people participating, as well as even the IFP saying—we could register after consulting with our principal on the provisional basis—is an indication of the process. I think the process is on.

[Mashokwe] Mr. Mdlalose?

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[Mdilalose] Well, I agree entirely with what Jacob is saying. The issue is this—it's not just a matter of yes, no, to an issue. It's an issue of, what does this involve? How far can this be taken? Take for example the issue of powers, powers for the provinces. It isn't just one power. There are several powers that are mentioned, and then, when you consider those powers in a sense you say how much of that power to be taken by the province or by the state will do, as we would prefer to say? Now then, you've discussed that and somebody might say, all right, that power may be given but it should be in the context that the national government will have a say over what you have got. Then we have to negotiate that.

[Mashokwe] Dr. Mdilalose, it's almost like somebody who is watching could say the IFP has an attitude of—if you don't give us what we want, we don't take part in the elections. Is that true?

[Mdilalose] Well, that would be a wrong interpretation.

[Mashokwe] What is the right one?

[Mdilalose] We are saying, for the sake of South Africa, and that must be importantly understood. For the sake of South Africa, the constitution is best when it has this, that, or the other feature. We have already, in fact, considered many things even though we would not have liked to have considered those issues, but we have considered them in a spirit of understanding and reaching some consensus. So we see these powers have got to come up and we have mentioned them, and then of course the other party will say—no, yes, you can have that, but not that far, then they well know we can't. We must have it at least thus far. So that there is negotiation. Negotiation is not just a matter of saying A or B.

[Mashokwe] OK, I hear that it sounds very reasonable, but in actual fact here we have....

[Mdilalose, interrupting] It is in fact, it is in fact reasonable...

[Mashokwe, continuing] I say it sounds reasonable, but out there the reality is that—the chief minister said he does not recognize the authority of the TEC [Transitional Executive Council]. Now, the text here says: The responsibility for peace and the end of violence rests with the government. Again shifting the goal posts, shifting the blame to the government. Are you not as leaders supposed to be taking this responsibility on your shoulders and saying to your supporters: Stop it?

[Mdilalose] But I don't think you have read that statement correctly. We have said it clearly that there is a responsibility on our part to redouble our efforts, those are the words we have said. It means we go on to our constituencies, we go on to the people on the ground, we go on to the structures of our parties, we meet ever so often with our branches and let them know that they must tolerate one another. We take part in the peace

committee structures. There is a regional Dispute Resolution Committee, there are also the local dispute resolution committees. For example here in Natal we have got six centers that are actually manned by various people. Since certain instances some of our members don't turn up, in certain instances some of the ANC members do not turn up. So we have got to get to our people and say: Look, turn up. And that is not government, it's our parties. We are going to press them to go and take part in these dispute resolution committees...

[Mashokwe, interrupting] OK....

[Mdilalose, continuing] ...and then we say the government might as well do its part. We are not saying that's only the government.

[Mashokwe] Let me hear it from the ANC. Are you also redoubling your efforts, redoubling the issue of no revenge killings? How do you interpret it?

[Zuma] Definitely, that's what we are saying. There are efforts which have been undertaken by both organizations, because it doesn't necessarily mean nothing has happened between the two organizations in an attempt to stamp out violence. We are saying we are going to redouble that effort, in other words, as two organizations we want to ensure that the peace structures that we are party to, and every other thing, including new initiatives, we are going to do everything we can. But we are then saying, there is a voice that comes from the government if there is a kind of violence. They will say this is between the IFP and the ANC, let them sort it out. We are saying, while we have got the responsibility to deal with the matters that we have just spelt out, the government at the end has the responsibility to ensure that there is law and order in this country, not to pass the buck and say—violence is there, we can't do anything about it, it is a matter between the IFP and the ANC.

[Mashokwe] Okay, I have to ask again on this issue of provisional registration. Will this influence in any way your relationship with the other members of the Freedom Alliance?

[Mdilalose] Well, i. may. We are working as a party to make decisions on our own as a party, but naturally we communicate our ideas to our partners in the Freedom Alliance.

[Mashokwe] Do you think they will be disappointed with your move?

[Mdilalose] I won't talk on their behalf, they are big enough to make those decisions.

[Mashokwe] Let us try and get to the root of this. You have moved from an alliance that said it will not take part before A, B, C, and Z, etc. You've taken a stand now—provisional registration. Is that not in the same tone. It seems to me it's not in the same tone with your friends in the Freedom Alliance.

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[Mdlalose] The first thing to recognize is the we have not decided on having those provisional registrations done yet. We are going to refer them to our Central Committee—we have said that before. There has not been a decision as yet, but we are an independent party. If we think that is the right thing to be done, that will be so, then we'll inform the other parties. We have power to make our decisions; they also have power to make their own decisions.

[Mashokwe] Mr. Zuma, let me go back to you. The issue of the ANC and socio-economic reconstruction development. Are we in a situation now where we could say you are going to be able to pursue this, say within the Natal region?

[Zuma] Certainly, that is our aim. That is what we would like to do. All that we are doing, basically we would like to have peace and stability. We don't think it is a good thing that our people should be killing one another, because if there's violence there is no peace and stability, then you cannot address the question of reconstruction and development. That has to take place within the context and environment that is conducive. If there is violence, there is destruction of property, burning of houses, etc.; then you cannot have that kind of situation. That is why the issue of stopping violence is a cardinal question that here, particularly Natal, we've got to work so closely all of us to ensure that we succeed.

[Mashokwe] OK, let us look at the new task group. In the past when the leaders had met they have come up with meeting—with task groups or committees. How effective is this one going to be which is charged with bringing back peace in this area [as heard]? How are you going to go about it practically on the ground?

[Zuma] We believe that in order to follow up the decisions taken today and the discussions and other agreements reached before, we do need the task force that is going to ensure that the kind of double efforts that we are talking about are actually put in place. It has to meet and plan as to how do we in practice take these decisions and implement them and ensure that decisions, like the two leaders visiting various areas, are undertaken. I think we, by the task force, we are trying to ensure that our decisions don't suffer delay in implementation—and also which implementation—that they should be implemented quickly and effectively.

[Mashokwe] Dr. Mdlalose?

[Mdlalose] And that also there should be facilitation of the national peace structures at local levels.

[Mashokwe] Gentlemen, I have to ask you this. It would appear you have avoided in this statement here the issue of the king and the monarchy. What is the agreement there, because they live close to the hearts of....

[Mdlalose, interrupting] We discussed the issue of the king and we have not included it in our statement. It's a lot of concern and there are a lot of sensitivities about

that. But we went into that and we did not feel it was our duty really to make pronouncements on that issue.

[Mashokwe] But it is an issue that South Africans would want to know about. Mr. Zuma, is it not important to tell us what you discussed at least?

[Zuma] The issue was discussed as Dr. Mdlalose says we will not necessarily put it in a statement, but there was an indication from the ANC's position for an example that the ANC recognizes and respects the king, and I think you should be aware that in the ANC's position the respect of the traditional leadership has been pronounced. Even the interim constitution that is there does provide this, and we believe that in the provincial constitution which will deal with the peculiarities of Natal as Natal, that issue will certainly be accommodated. But we did not necessarily discuss it with an aim to conclude the issue, because we know the issue is under discussion. That's why we thought it was not necessary to put it in the statement here.

[Mashokwe] Does provisional constitutions [as heard] make enough room for the kingdom of Zululand in your view, Dr. Mdlalose?

[Mdlalose] Provincial constitutions?

[Mashokwe] Yes, the ones that have been agreed upon.

[Mdlalose] Well, from the point of view of IFP we have provision for the position of the king.

[Mashokwe] Are you satisfied with those pronouncements that the ANC has come up with in that regard?

[Mdlalose] There is a lot still to be discussed. I mean, the ANC have made their comments about it, but there is nothing that's finalized, as Mr. Zuma said.

[Mashokwe] Gentlemen, I have to ask you this in conclusion. Which of you believe that there is a need for a Zulu volkstaat [homeland]? Do you believe there is a need, Mr. Zuma?

[Mdlalose] A Zulu volkstaat? We have not spoken about a Zulu volkstaat [laughter from Zuma]. And that is not equivalent to a Zulu kingdom.

[Mashokwe] OK, let me get this quickly, you're left with 10 seconds.

[Zuma] No, but the Zulu kingdom is there. It has been there. It is not a question of debate about it. I think what is being debated is the role and the place of it constitutionally. I don't think there's anyone who debates or disputes the fact of the Zulu kingdom.

[Mdlalose] The Zulu kingdom is there. It has been there for centuries. And no one is going to abolish that.

[Mashokwe] Dr. Mdlalose, Mr. Zuma, thank you for talking to us. That was Newsline from Durban and thank you for watching, good night.

KwaZulu Assembly Supports International Mediation

MB0303070994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The kwaZulu Legislative Assembly caucus has supported the agreement reached between Mr. Mandela and Dr. Buthelezi on international mediation. However, it questioned the deadline for the registration of political parties, saying there could be no solution if the process of registering parties ran its course before mediation could bring effective solutions to the constitutional crisis.

IFP's Buthelezi Calls for Separate Zulu Kingdom

MB0203131994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1248 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Report by Craig Doonan]

[Text] Durban March 2 SAPA—Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi on Wednesday [2 March] called for a Zulu kingdom separate from the rest of South Africa and said the kwaZulu government could not be held responsible for the Zulu nation's anger if elections proceeded without this demand being met. Addressing a kwaZulu legislative assembly caucus meeting in Ulundi, Mr. Buthelezi said: "We need to separate the kingdom of kwaZulu from the rest of South Africa."

"If this can be done through a constitutional principle in the 1993 Constitution then we will entertain constitutional amendments to this effect."

If the African National Congress and the SA Government went ahead with the April poll without the Zulu king's demands being met, "the kwaZulu government cannot be held responsible for the anger of the Zulu nation".

Mr. Buthelezi made no mention of his talks with ANC [African National Congress] President Nelson Mandela on Tuesday at which he agreed to consider registering the IFP for South Africa's first all-race elections in April.

Repeating his rejection to recent constitutional concessions, the IFP president said these did not even begin to address demands for exclusive provincial powers, autonomous regional taxing powers, and the protection and guarantee of regional constitutions against arbitrary decisions of the constituent assembly.

King Goodwill Zwelithini was demanding formal recognition and constitutional accommodation of the kingdom of kwaZulu, he added. Furthermore, the constitution had to make provision for the "establishment of a constitution by the provincial legislature of kwaZulu/Natal which shall recognise and protect the institution, status and role of the king of the Zulus, the kingdom of kwaZulu and the traditional leaders as well as their powers with regard to indigenous laws, customs, culture, language and land tenure system".

The "intractable" problem concerning the problem of King Zwelithini and the kingdom of kwaZulu could not be resolved through amending sections of the present constitution, but through a constitutional principle only. The new constitutional principle on self-determination was not compatible with the king's demands, said Mr. Buthelezi.

"The position of our government regarding the failure of the SA Government and the ANC to accommodate our reasonable demands remains exactly the same as before."

"To deny the citizens of kwaZulu the right to self-determination is a savage attempt to strip us of our cultural heritage, to belittle the traditional importance of his majesty the king of the Zulus, and to eradicate all evidence of our Zulu existence."

Mr. Buthelezi again slammed the ANC for "manipulating" the constitutional process to subject Zulus to the "illegitimate sovereignty of the ANC/SA Communist Party alliance without our consent, without these people having defeated us, and against our will".

"As far as his majesty the king is concerned, elections in kwaZulu can only take place once this issue of sovereignty has been resolved."

The Zulu nation was demanding an end to the illegitimate domination of its territory, said Mr. Buthelezi, and "what the king is demanding is not so wild when one has been watching the ease with which the (State President F W) de Klerk government has just handed back Walvis Bay to Namibia".

Denies Vice Presidency Offer

MB0303071294 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Dr. Mangosuthu Buthelezi has denied reports that Mr. Mandela has offered a post as vice president to ensure the IFP's [Inkatha Freedom Party] participation in the election. However, he confirmed that he and Mr. Mandela had discussed possible positions the IFP would be qualified for in the future government.

Freedom Alliance Leaders Summoned for Urgent Meeting

MB0203202494 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2000 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Report by S. Denny]

[Text] Durban March 2 SAPA—The leaders of the Freedom Alliance have been summoned to an emergency meeting in Cape Town on Thursday [3 March] to discuss its latest position, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported on Wednesday.

This follows talks between African National Congress President Nelson Mandela and Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi in Durban.

An IFP central committee meeting will be held in Ulundi on Friday to discuss the party's provisional registration for the election and the role of international mediators.

Await Response to Mediation Proposal

*MB0303121594 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1128 GMT 3 Mar 94*

[Text] Cape Town March 3 SAPA—The Freedom Alliance [FA] would make a decision on registering for the elections once there was a clear response to its proposal for international mediation, its leaders decided in Cape Town on Thursday [3 March]. At a meeting in a Constantia hotel it was decided to appoint a committee to investigate all the ramifications of mediation action.

The decision to go ahead would rest with the Inkatha Freedom Party's [IFP] Central Committee on Friday, which must consider IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi's offer of provisional registration for the election.

The leaders of the Freedom Alliance, Mr Buthelezi, President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana, Dr. Ferdi Hartzenberg of the Conservative Party and Gen Constand Viljoen of the Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front] met at the cellars in Constantia and started their deliberations shortly after 10:30AM on Thursday.

After almost three hours of talks the Bophuthatswana Foreign Minister Rowan Cronje made a brief statement on their behalf.

He said in view of the present state of affairs the alliance members had endorsed Mr Buthelezi's initiative to break the deadlock—his call for international mediation. "It would be presumptuous of us to say who should be called to mediate." He said that would still have to be decided. "We are waiting for a response of Mr Nelson Mandela to the proposal put by Chief Buthelezi."

Only then could the framework and agreement to the terms of mediation be determined. "Time is important. It is important for both mediation, which can take place very speedily, and for registration."

Mr Buthelezi was asked whether he believed mediation could take place and registration effected in time for the elections. "That is not determined by myself, it doesn't depend on me. If the (IFP) Central Committee decides to register then it means that it is accepted in principle."

He stressed that he personally had not decided to register but had suggested mediation in that regard, a proposal which would be put to the IFP Central Committee.

For this purpose he had moved forward Saturday's Central Committee meeting by one day. In that way he could not be accused of meaningless gestures as the deadline for registration is on Friday midnight.

Dr. Hartzenberg also confirmed the alliance's stand. "The whole matter of registration is connected to mediation," he said. He would not speculate on the hypothetical ANC agreement to the mediation proposal.

Asked about possible dissension within CP ranks regarding participation or non-participation in the elections, he said it had been thoroughly discussed and a decision had been taken.

The alliance leaders were concerned about what Mr Cronje called the unilateral suspension of negotiations by the government. "Does it mean they don't want us in the election?" Mr Buthelezi asked. "We would like an inclusive settlement before the elections."

De Klerk: No Time for International Mediation

*MB0303100794 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0931 GMT 3 Mar 94*

[Report by C. Doonan]

[Text] Durban March 3 SAPA—State President F W de Klerk said on Thursday [3 March] he did not believe there was enough time for mediation to bring the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] back into South Africa's transition and urged ongoing dialogue to achieve this end. "I don't think mediation is a very expeditious means," he told reporters after meeting community leaders in Pietermaritzburg—part of his election roadshow through Natal. "Time is of the essence," he said, adding that direct dialogue was the best way to overcome differences.

Mr de Klerk told parties intent on boycotting the election that they were "shooting themselves in the foot".

On reports of a split in the Conservative Party [CP], Mr de Klerk said it did not surprise him, as he believed there was strong support by CP members at grassroots level to contest the April poll.

In reply to a question, Mr de Klerk said he did not feel intimidated by venturing into kwaZulu territory, saying he had not received any negative reaction from IFP President Mangosuthu Buthelezi on his journey into that region.

Mr de Klerk will on Friday afternoon visit strife-torn Umbumbulu south of Durban, a district of kwaZulu which has been wracked by years of political violence.

Mr de Klerk also said he had discussed issues such as abortion and satanism with a group of church, local government, traditional and other leaders in Pietermaritzburg on Thursday morning. On abortion, he said he believed the NP [National Party] policy which outlawed unnatural birth except under exceptional circumstances, was a good one. Only when the life of a mother was in jeopardy did the NP believe abortion should be considered. Mr de Klerk moved to central Pietermaritzburg later on Thursday.

Advises Alliance To Register

**MB0203193894 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1914 GMT 2 Mar 94**

[Report by L. Braid]

[Text] Cape Town March 2 SAPA—President F W de Klerk on Wednesday [2 March] advised Freedom Alliance parties to register for the election to ensure their voice was heard and so that they could participate in negotiations. "My advice is for them to register and participate. They will not be giving anything away but will ensure their voice being heard; that they will be represented; and will fully become part of the continuing negotiation process," he said at Tuynhuys after meeting Portuguese Foreign Minister Dr Jose Barroso.

"Participation does not prevent anyone from continuing with negotiations." He said that after his talks on Tuesday evening with Freedom Alliance leader Gen Constand Viljoen, the ball was now in the Alliance's court.

"We would like some specific proposals and then negotiations can continue. These can be concluded before the elections for implementation after the elections. I believe such an agreement would be better for all concerned."

"Reneging after the election will be visible for everyone to see, will leave more than a bad taste and would have international focus." A signed agreement could contribute to defusing tensions.

Mr de Klerk would not comment on his discussions with Gen Viljoen except to say he had the impression there was a move for the election date to be shifted. He had stressed the process had reached the stage when it had to continue on its course.

He did not foresee Parliament being recalled again soon because "the strength of the amended constitution which we passed for federalism is such that there is no reason for them (the Alliance) not to participate."

African Christian Democratic Party Presents Manifesto

MB0203102994 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Text] The newly founded African Christian Democratic Party, the ACDP, has launched its manifesto. It aims to provide a platform for what it calls the silent majority who want peace. The ACDP says its image, unlike those of other parties, is not scarred by the past. The party's president-elect, Reverend Kenneth Meshoe, says he had a message from God to form a party which will represent Christians. The party's main policy will be to bring about peace through the word of God.

[Begin Meshoe recording] We are meeting a need that nobody at the moment is meeting. Most South Africans

do believe in God. That is why when you talk of bringing God back into government, they are comfortable with that. [end recording]

Reverend Meshoe says unlike other parties they will be consistent in carrying over the message of peace.

[Begin Meshoe recording] As everybody wants a good economy, everybody wants jobs, everybody wants investment in the country, we say for investments to come to the country must be stable, and for stability to be there, there must be peace, and for peace to be there people must be reconciled one to the other. [end recording]

The ACDP believes in an open market economy. It favors a federal government with maximum constitutional powers at the lowest level. The party will contest all nine regions and claims to have strong support nationwide.

Twentieth Party Registers for Elections

MB0203145194 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The 20th party that will take part in the election registered this morning. The Luso South African Party, Lusap, will represent primarily the Portuguese community.

Pik Botha Criticizes ANC Economic Policies

MB0303083394 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha says a party cannot come to power, no matter with what majority, if it cannot cope with the economic challenges of Africa. Addressing a National Party gathering in Johannesburg's southern suburbs last night, Mr. Botha said the ANC [African National Congress] was so busy with its internal political work that it was forgetting about the world. He said a new government could not afford to have large budget deficits or loans that the economy could not carry.

[Begin Botha recording] Not only South Africans possess holiday homes. A vast number of overseas investors possess holiday homes. A vast number of people from abroad have farms in this country. They have invested in this country. Business corporations, business companies from all over Europe and from America have game farms, they have holiday homes, and the government that touches those rights will get into trouble with the governments of those citizens whose rights are in this way affected, and tax everybody out of existence. [end recording]

Mr. Botha went on to say that the ANC was to blame for the problems experienced within the peacekeeping force.

[Begin Botha recording, in Afrikaans] That is the kind of thing you get with the aggressive insistence of the ANC

to get its way over us. Let the ANC have its way, and the whole defense force will end up like that peacekeeping force. [end recording]

Volksfront Denies Rumors of Split Within Ranks

*MB0303105794 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0947 GMT 3 Mar 94*

[Text] Pretoria March 3 SAPA—The Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front—AVF] on Thursday [3 March] denied that there was "any talk" of a split in its ranks. AVF media secretary Stephan Maninger said in a statement: "The National Party media is usually inclined to reach new heights of the imagination shortly before the elections." The statement followed speculation that some rightwingers considered forming a breakaway organisation to contest the elections in defiance of those who persist in their hard-line stance to boycott the polls.

Peacekeeping Forces Stops Training in Wage Dispute

*MB0103154994 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1524 GMT 01 Mar 94*

[Text] Pretoria March 1 SAPA—Members of the National Peace Keeping Force [NPKF] are refusing to continue training until a dispute over a disparity in salaries has been resolved, the NPKF's Command Council said on Tuesday [1 March]. A NPKF statement said both the Command Council and the NPKF's general officer commanding, Maj-Gen Gabriel Ramushwana, took the matter "very seriously". "It is believed the necessary steps will be taken quickly to resolve this issue," said the statement.

The NPKF could not be reached for further information.

Soldiers Reportedly AWOL

MB0203165794 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1500 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Groups of soldiers are reported to be going absent without leave from the National Peacekeeping Force Barracks at De Brug near Bloemfontein. Our Bloemfontein news staff reports that the soldiers, carrying their baggage, have been seen on the way to the city. They refused to talk to reporters, and it's not known whether they intend leaving permanently.

The commander of the peace force, Major General Gabriel Ramushwana was unavailable for comment.

Members of the Transitional Executive Council, TEC, visited the place today, but it is not known whether the wage dispute that resulted in a strike by members of the force has been resolved.

TEC Terms Peacekeeping Force Problems Administrative

*MB0203180294 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1712 GMT 2 Mar 94*

[Text] Pretoria March 2 SAPA—The Transitional Executive Council [TEC] said on Wednesday problems at the National Peacekeeping Force [NPKF] barracks at De Brug Base outside Bloemfontein were administrative. In a statement in Pretoria, the council said senior administrative members had left for De Brug to urge striking trainee peacekeepers to return to work.

NPKF members refused training on Tuesday when they discovered they were being paid at the lowest rate for their particular rank, instead of at the highest rate which they had been promised. The highest rates had been recommended by the NPKF Command Council to the Transitional Executive Council Sub-Council on Defence. However, the sub-council had only approved the lowest rates.

A TEC management committee delegation would also visit the base soon, the statement said.

Approves 129 Million Rand Budget

MB0203082194 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Transitional Executive Council has approved a 129 million rand budget for the National Peacekeeping Force. The budget covers the cost of the peacekeeping force until 31 March. It covers salary and administration costs for both the De Brug Camp near Bloemfontein and the camp near Koeberg.

Attempts To Resolve Situation

MB0303083494 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The Transitional Executive Council hopes to settle matters today with members of the National Peacekeeping Force at De Brug near Bloemfontein who are striking over a wage dispute. About 80 percent of the force went on strike on Tuesday, and many left the base because they did not receive the top scale for their rank as promised earlier. A force spokesman said many of the deserters have returned. He said every day lost could have a disruptive effect since it was affecting the training of the troops, which was now in its final stages.

TEC Calls for Suspension of New Housing Plan

*MB0103153194 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1414 GMT 01 Mar 94*

[Text] Cape Town March 1 SAPA—The Transitional Executive Council [TEC] has resolved that the R[rand]90-billion housing plan announced by Housing Minister Louis Shill should be suspended until the

controversy about the matter has been settled, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported on Tuesday [1 March]. The Council could not agree on another resolution, which among other things asked for the minister's action to be condemned.

Democratic Party negotiator said Mr Shill should be allowed to explain his position before such a resolution could be accepted. African National Congress [ANC] Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa said the housing scheme was still under discussion at a multiparty level within the housing forum.

Mr Shill was summoned to appear before the TEC at its next sitting in Pretoria to answer questions from the Council and the National Housing Forum.

The ANC, the ANC-aligned SA [South African] National Civic Organisation and the National Housing Forum have said the minister's announcement was unilateral and "blatant politicking". The announcement had damaged the process of achieving consensus on housing subsidy policy and thereby delayed the delivery of housing. By announcing an "incomplete" housing guarantee scheme, long and sensitive negotiations undertaken to bring the banks into the delivery of low income housing might also now be jeopardised, they claimed.

ANC To Reject New Housing Program Contracts

MB0203074994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress] has warned financial institutions against involvement in the 90-billion-rand housing program announced by the minister of national housing, Mr. Louis Shill. The party said it would not recognize any such contracts signed before the election, and said the scheme would have to be sanctioned by the Transitional Executive Council before being implemented. The ANC added that it would oppose any attempt by the National Party to preempt the electoral right of the voters to pass their judgment on housing.

The Transitional Executive Council has decided that the scheme should be suspended until differences on the issue have been resolved. Mr. Shill claimed that politically motivated organizations wanted the provision of housing delayed until a new government was in power.

Ramaphosa Calls for Shill To Resign

MB0103104994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1001 GMT 1 Mar 94

[By political correspondent Pierre Claassen]

[Text] Cape Town March 1 SAPA—ANC [African National Congress] Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa

has called for the resignation of National Housing Minister Louis Shill for trying to hijack political benefit for the National Party [NP] government by announcing a multi-billion housing programme. Mr Ramaphosa made the call in a resolution submitted to the Transitional Executive Council [TEC] at its Cape Town sitting on Tuesday. [1 March]

Quoting newspaper reports and producing the official media release, he said Mr Shill had arrogantly proceeded to make an announcement on an as yet incomplete package negotiated by the multi-party National Housing Forum [NHF]. "He is clearly taking the housing issue and making it a party political matter," he said.

Mr Ramaphosa told the council that when it was heard that Mr Shill was going to make the announcement, he was asked to wait and do so jointly with the NHF. "They (NHF) say the announcement is premature and has the potential to put at risk everything they have done."

It was quite clear that by making the announcement Mr Shill was trying to demonstrate to the country that one party, the NP government, was solely responsible for the plan. "He is abusing his position as a minister by using a package negotiated at a multi-party forum to boost the fortunes of the National Party.

"It is the most arrogant, the cheapest shot Mr Shill could take on an issue like this," he said. Housing was a national issue and had to be handled on a multi-party level. The issue affected the levelling of the playing field (the primary function of the TEC). Mr Shill had made it unlevel.

"We have had enormous problems with this minister." When the housing board was formed he had made it clear he would not be dictated to. "This minister must be brought to book." He should be brought before the council, along with the NHF, to explain his actions.

"I would like to say that this government is on its way out, and that ministers should not make announcements on issues that affect all our people without first making sure at multi-party level that there is agreement."

After listening to the response of some members, including Dr Dawie de Villiers, who called for fuller information before condemnatory action was taken, Mr Ramaphosa called for the minister's resignation. "We have had good relations with other ministers who have constrained themselves and not acted on a unilateral basis but consulted on a multi-party basis."

He named Dr de Villiers and the complicated issue of cellular phones. The minister of finance and of foreign affairs were other examples.

Mr Shill's actions was upsetting the tenuous balance which the council was trying to establish over the transition. "He has done the country a disservice—he must go," Mr Ramaphosa said.

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The debate on his proposal was adjourned to allow efforts to be made to get Mr Shill to attend the session and explain himself.

Housing Minister Denies Announcement Premature

*MB0203110594 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2201 GMT 1 Mar 94*

[Report by E. van Wyk]

[Text] Pretoria March 1 SAPA—Housing Minister Louis Shill on Tuesday [1 March] denied that the government's announcement of a R[rand]90 billion housing plan was premature and accused the National Housing Forum [NHF] of delaying tactics to obstruct its implementation.

"By frustrating the housing process rather than encouraging it, my impression is that the forum has now yielded completely to political influences which sole purpose is to delay the delivery of housing until after the election for political gain," Mr Shill said in a statement.

Discussions with mortgage lending organisations were far advanced and it would be "sad" if the forum should try to impede progress in this regard. He was reacting to NHF criticism that the announcement was unilateral, premature and jeopardised a resolution on the housing crisis.

Mr Shill pointed out that the scheme had been negotiated with housing role players for about a year and that it had been recommended by the fully representative National Housing Board.

"The government has not been premature in announcing the scheme. If anything, we stand accused of allowing the NHF of delaying the process for too long." [as received]

The NHF had literally since its inception delayed the discussions on the grant scheme, he said. "The suggestion that we have to delay the process—which in fact means that the regional housing boards cannot proceed with their task until the administrative arrangements have been approved by the forum—is preposterous. This decision was based on lengthy discussions and expert advice. Any accusations of premature and unilateral action is based on a frustration of not being able to delay matters any further."

Citing examples, Mr Shill said in March last year the NHF declared December 1993 as their target date for resolving the subsidy policy but the body did not start discussions until September 1993 despite requests by him.

It was then agreed by the Department of National Housing and the NHF that the target date for finalising the subsidy policy would be November 1993, but through further delays documentation was only agreed

upon on December 14 1993, after which it was submitted to the National Housing Board for advice.

"The National Housing Board recommended that the minister (Mr Shill) proceed with the scheme but at this late stage the NHF insisted on further changes and wanted to refer the matter to their plenary meeting on March 14, 1994."

He was happy to discuss housing matters with the forum but the decision to proceed with the scheme and when to announce it remained his responsibility, Mr Shill said.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Visits, To Meet de Klerk

LD0203150894 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 1130 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Durao Barroso is in South Africa. He will meet the Portuguese community at a time of great uncertainty in the country. The Portuguese are concerned about the political changes. Maria de Lurdes Torcato was at the airport when the minister arrived.

[Begin recording] [Torcato] Durao Barroso is going to Cape Town where he is to meet President de Klerk. Tomorrow he is expected to meet Nelson Mandela at home in Johannesburg at 0730. He is also to meet the President of PAC, the leader of the Conservative Party, and General Viljoen of the Afrikaner National Front. Durao Barroso's arrival coincided with the registration of the Luso African Party, Lusap, which hopes to obtain the votes of the Portuguese community and to elect at least one MP, at the national or regional level, who will represent the interests of this important linguistic minority in South Africa. Durao Barroso spoke about the new party.

[Barroso] Obviously, I cannot and will not, as a representative of the Portuguese people, comment on matters of a party political nature. It is up to the Portuguese residing here, those who have the right to vote—many can now vote because they have been here for over five years—to make their choice conscientiously and freely. I will not in any way say what they should do. They are adults with the ability to discern, with full use of their rights, to make the choices which they believe to be the best for themselves and their families. However, I can make a general recommendation, in the name of the Portuguese government, and that is that they participate, participate in the transition process, that they do not exclude themselves, and that they never set up a ghetto. This would be in my opinion very negative. For the Portuguese set themselves up in a, shall we say, ghetto of the political system, or to decline to participate...[pauses] it is important for them to be associated to the transition at the moment. It is important to feel really integrated and that the South African society recognizes them also as active members in this transition and in this society. But as for their political choices, it is not up to me to comment.

[Torcato] Tomorrow Durao Barroso will open the conference on the transition to democracy and regional cooperation, organized by the South African Institute for External Relations. [end recording]

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MB0303132794

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

Housing Scheme Becomes 'Political Football'—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 2 March in its page-6 editorial comments on Housing Minister Louis Shill's announcement of a 90 billion rand housing plan, saying "it is a shame that a vast housing scheme for the low-income group should be turned into a political football, to be kicked around by the ANC [African National Congress] and its associates." It is also "a disgrace" that the Transitional Executive Council (TEC) should not only call for the schemes's suspension but summon a minister before it to explain his actions. "But then the TEC has gone far beyond the State President's original intention that it should have advisory and not executive powers. It intends to run the country ahead of the election and it refuses to allow the government to take decisions without its consent, even on such matters as a housing scheme which brings great benefits to poorer people. It is not that Mr Shill has jumped the gun, but that the ANC and its allies are pointing the gun at Mr Shill and the government."

THE STAR

Mandela-Buthelezi Meeting Breaks Talks Deadlock—Referring to the Mandela-Buthelezi meeting, Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 3 March in a page-14 editorial states that "whether it had been broken, breached or merely dented, something had happened to the deadlock." "Emotionally, we have a new lease on the hope of peace. The outlines of a compromise are discernible. The ANC and the Government should now, while feelings are warm and spirits high, drop their insistence on so much overriding central power. The Freedom Alliance should forgo its insistence on the restoration of the pre-colonial Zulu monarchy and the establishment of an ethnically exclusive Afrikaner volkstaat [homeland]."

BUSINESS DAY

Buthelezi Changes Negotiating Style—It is "premature and wishful thinking" to believe that the Mandela-Buthelezi meeting represents a breaking of the talks deadlock, says a page-8 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 3 March. Buthelezi changed his "negotiating style" and "instead of responding to Mandela's approach with the usual, gruff 'this proposal is fatally flawed', was 'all smiles'." An explanation for Buthelezi's new approach is that faced with pressures, Buthelezi and Inkatha decided on the new approach "because they needed extra breathing space to avoid a

poll they are likely to lose. The process of international mediation could also help them regain some moral high ground."

BEELD

Intimidation Campaign Against De Klerk—An editorial on page 10 of Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 25 February says: "Intimidation is an evil which cannot be easily erased during the current election campaign. It is clear that no political party can be declared entirely innocent, but nevertheless a certain pattern is beginning to take form." "What emerges is that President F.W. de Klerk, as leader of the National Party, has all too often been on the receiving end from ANC supporters. In contrast, ANC leader Mr. Nelson Mandela is able to address his followers relatively unhindered. Mr. Tony Leon of the Democratic Party was this week able to move through Alexander township peacefully, as was Minister Roelf Meyer through Soweto. Examples of the campaign against President de Klerk were evident during his visits to the various regions...reaching a low point...when he was struck by an object thrown at him, and at Kimberley...where a meeting had to be cancelled for his safety. It is clearly no coincidence that these attacks follow bitter personal criticism of President de Klerk by Mr. Mandela."

Homeland Sets Time Bomb Ticking—In his "Political Beeld" column on the same page Willie Kuhn warns: "Even among those who ought to know better, a dangerous oh-well-why-not approach has emerged—give the right wing their homeland, so there can be peace in the land." "Therein lies the danger—that half-baked plans will be accepted in order to achieve temporary peace; but this will set a time bomb ticking." He adds: "What happened at Newcastle this week is an indication of the explosive force which can be triggered by homeland claims. The right wing says Newcastle belongs to it, the Zulus consider it as part of the Zulu kingdom, the ANC supporters believe it is part of South Africa—and the Indians are probably wondering how they are going to be Pakistanized. Even in Standerton the right wing and the ANC are fighting for possession." "A homeland cannot be established through emotional force," as this "would simply repeat and multiply the mistakes of the past. Sober reasoning is needed, rather than irresponsible surrender." "There must be thousands of right wingers who realize that a homeland cannot be simply wished into being. The blacks in the so-called homeland towns will not simply evaporate; nor will they accept sudden alien status in their own country." "These right wingers cannot close their eyes to the creation of a tragedy in South Africa."

ID Document Fraud Causes Concern—An editorial on page 8 of Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans on 28 February says: "The alleged fraud involving the issuing of identity documents to young Zimbabweans entering northern Transvaal legally or illegally is reason for great concern. Should the allegations prove to be true, it could mean that thousands of Zimbabweans will be able to vote in the April election. Apart from the fact that this

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would be illegal, the implications of such voting are enormous. Such foreigners could even play a decisive role in the election in the north of the country. Part of the problem appears to be that Shangaan-and Venda-speaking blacks live on both sides of the South African-Zimbabwean border. As a result of a lack of jobs, and

sometimes food, in Zimbabwe, many of these people enter the northern Transvaal and they can be mistaken for, and registered as, South African citizens." "We hope that the Department of Home Affairs and the electoral commission will investigate these allegations urgently and get hold of the offenders."

Angola

News Blackout of Reconciliation Talks Continues

MB0203202694 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] It seems as if the government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] are finally reaching agreements on specific principles and modalities of national reconciliation and may soon close down this topic. Today, more than ever before, the news blackout was reinforced in Lusaka. The only information that our correspondent in Lusaka was able to obtain is that the negotiating teams continue to meet and in view of the time they took for discussions [words indistinct]. Pedro Manuel reports.

Good evening! The press was not able to obtain any kind of information on the peace talks between the government and UNITA today. This is because, first, the morning session lasted more than usual and second, after this afternoon's session, the negotiating teams began to hold their own meetings, which are still going on. According to reports, the parties are expected to once and for all conclude discussions on specific principles and modalities of national reconciliation. The information that only two points remain to be discussed in this topic, has not been denied yet.

What is more, in view of today's intense movement it is very probable that the mediators have set a deadline to reach an agreement on national reconciliation. Sources here say the parties have already reached agreements on issues such as administrative decentralization and UNITA's participation in the country's administration.

Correction to Prime Minister on Sovereignty

MB2402174094

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Prime Minister on Need To Defend Sovereignty," published in the 24 February Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT, page 25:

Column two, first full item, make sourceline read: ...Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 23 Feb 94....(correcting time and date)

Lesotho

OAU Secretary General Arrives for Brief Visit

MB0303091894 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The secretary general of the Organization of African Unity, OAU, His Excellency Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, arrived at Moshoeshoe I International Airport last night on an official visit. Dr. Salim and his delegation were welcomed under a heavy drizzle by the minister of foreign affairs, the Honorable Molapo Qhobela,

and the minister of justice, human rights and constitutional affairs, the Honorable Kelebone Maope.

Dr. Salim started his busy schedule by having a meeting with the church leaders. Today he will call on His Majesty King Letsie III and hold talks with the prime minister, Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle, on state affairs. He will also meet the minister of foreign affairs, the honorable Molapo Qhobela, and hold a press conference prior to his departure. [passage omitted]

Mozambique

UN's Ajello: Elections Only After Demobilization

MB0303072194 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0400 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The UN secretary general's special representative, Aldo Ajello, has reiterated that elections will only be held in Mozambique once all troops have been demobilized. Ajello was reacting to an AFP report that the UN could agree to elections being held in October even if the two armies were in place. AFP based its report on statements by Behrooz Sadry, Ajello's deputy. Ajello told our correspondent that he questioned his deputy about the report but that Sadry had denied the remarks attributed to him by AFP.

Government Reacts to UN Resolution on Confinement

MB0303091994 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0800 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The Mozambican Government has reiterated that it intends and is willing to have general elections by not later than October 1994 in line with the General Peace Accord timetable. That is according to NOTICIAS which cites a statement issued by the government. NOTICIAS says that is the first government reaction to the recent UN Security Council resolution on the Mozambican peace process. The statement says the apparent delay in the confinement of government troops is not in any way caused by political or logistical reasons. The UN Security Council resolution vigorously urged the government and the Mozambique National Resistance to speed up the confinement of troops, and asked the sides to begin demobilizing their forces.

Government To Demobilize Troops Unilaterally

MB0303071094 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0400 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The Mozambican Government is to begin demobilizing its forces from assembly areas at once without waiting for the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo]. This was disclosed by Labor Minister Teodato Hunguana at the end of yet another meeting of the Supervision and Control Commission [CSC]. He said

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the government's decision is designed to speed up the peace process and enable soldiers to leave assembly areas.

The simultaneous demobilization of troops of both sides should have started on 22 February, but Renamo was late in submitting the list of its troops. Raul Domingos, head of Renamo's delegation to the CSC, said the government's decision to unilaterally begin confining [as heard] its troops was worrisome. Raul Domingos said the two sides should operate within the parameters of the General Peace Accord so as to prevent mistrust. He said the delay in demobilizing Renamo troops was due to technical problems.

Renamo Boycotts Cease-Fire Commission Meeting

MB0303083594 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0800 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] The MOZAMBIQUE INFORMATION AGENCY reports that the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] yesterday boycotted a meeting of the Cease-Fire Commission. The source says the government and UN delegations waited for the Renamo delegation for more than 60 minutes, adding that so far no explanation has been given about the boycott. The meeting was scheduled to discuss recent rioting at Renamo assembly areas. The agenda included the destruction of explosive devices collected from both sides, the transfer of war materiel from assembly areas to UN Operations in Mozambique regional depots, and the start of demobilization.

UN Refugee Commissioner Arrives in Maputo

MB0203185494 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 2 Feb 94

[Text] Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, arrived in Maputo this afternoon to review progress made in the repatriation of about 1.7 million Mozambican refugees. During her stay in Mozambique, Sadako Ogata will hold meetings with President Joaquim Chissano, senior government and Mozambique National Resistance officials, and ambassadors from donor countries. She is also expected to visit Tete Province to familiarize herself with projects for the reintegration of civilians in Angonia District, which harbors more than 200,000 Mozambican refugees returning from Malawi.

Swaziland

King Mswati III Opens Sixth Parliament

MB2302201994 Mbabane Swazi Television in English 1030 GMT 18 Feb 94

[Speech by King Mswati III at the opening of the Sixth Parliament in Lobamba on 18 February—live]

[Text] Your majesty the Ndlovukazi, your royal highnesses, right honorable prime minister, chiefs, excellencies, members of the diplomatic corps, honorable ministers, Mr. President and honorable members of the House of Senate, Mr. Speaker, and honorable members of the House of Assembly. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, let me begin by welcoming you all to the state opening of the first session of the Sixth Parliament of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

My first duty today, on behalf of the whole Swazi nation, is to commend the work of the previous government. In often difficult circumstances, and over a period of great change in the Kingdom, the prime minister and his cabinet team, along with the members of both houses of Parliament, worked hard for the development of the Kingdom. The nation owes a vote of appreciation to all who served us over this period.

Two years ago, the nation was in the process of deciding the direction to be taken—of political reform. I made it clear then, in this chamber, that the future of Swaziland depended on the full, active, and peaceful participation of all Swazis in that process to achieve a result which would truly reflect the wishes of the majority of the country. The elections were clearly a success. They were accepted as freely and fairly conducted by the international community, and more importantly they were what we, the Swazi people, wanted.

Beyond the fact of a new electoral system, the reforms have been important to Swaziland as a means by which the whole Swazi family has been involved in a debate of national interest and significance. I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the nation for its whole-hearted participation and support of the process, and for the peaceful manner in which the exercise was conducted. Of course, the very nature of reform implies an ongoing process, and the recommendations given by the nation include many issues which still require attention. This we will address in the same manner—carefully and peacefully and with the full knowledge and approval of the Kingdom.

I should also like to highlight the achievement of those of you sitting here who are very much the end result of the first reform initiative. You members of the House of Assembly, who have been chosen by your fellow Swazis to be their representatives in the country's most important legislative chamber, you take your seats here at a vital time in the Kingdom's history, and you and all members of both houses hold in your hands the hopes of those you represent, to ensure that the direction of our development aim is correct, and that the effects of development strategies implemented by government reach those who most need them, for the time has now come for the nation to direct its attention to the issue of greatest importance for our future stability and prosperity—how best to tackle the economic problems facing the country today, and what steps we must take to sustain the progress toward achieving our national development objectives.

Before considering this economic challenge at a national level, we should understand the importance to Swaziland's development of events occurring around the world. These days of increasing economic interdependence between nations, the effects of situations in one part of the world, or the decisions of other countries and organizations, can have implications for the rest of us. One example of this, and one that perhaps has the greatest significance for the world's economic future, is the signing last December of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade. This was the result of many years of negotiations between all the major trading blocks aimed at breaking down trade barriers between countries, and it is an important step towards creating a world of free trade.

While Swaziland, along with other developing countries, can welcome the outcome of the agreement in terms of expanding markets for our exports, there are several short term disadvantages and implications for our economies to be taken into account. Two examples of these are, first, the issue of our unique access to various markets for our sugar, beef, and other products. Under the terms of GATT, this trading advantage will certainly fall away in time, reducing the revenue from those export markets. And second, linked to the first, is the fact that the agreement will mean all our exports will potentially be in direct competition with every other country. Thus, the GATT signing represents both an advantage and a challenge to the Kingdom. The advantage is the opening up of whole new markets for our exports, and the challenge to Swazi industry of producing exports which stand up to competition from the rest of the world. These are areas for national discussion as we determine ways to lift our levels of quality and efficiency in production.

At government level, we have already begun to lobby the First World to consider the penalties to developing countries of the agreement. The price to them of our support for the signing is their understanding of the potential harm it will do to our economies. In the short term, we are looking for a continuation to our preferential access to markets, at least until we are in a position to compete with the developed world in the export market place. This will be a challenge for government and an issue for which we will be looking to our friends in the international community for help and advice.

Conflict situations around the world too have an impact on us, not simply for the adverse effect they have on the world economy, but also because they tend to divert attention away from the development needs of emerging countries like Swaziland. The situation in Bosnia, for example, while providing an illustration of the dangers of division within a country, continues to draw resources and concern away from the developing world in a justifiable effort to resolve the crisis there.

Swaziland continues to support the process of negotiation between the three rival factions, and we pray that the use of force is avoided. We encourage the moves by

the United Nations and the European Union to assist in finding a settlement to the dispute, and an end to the suffering of so many.

Another focus for world attention outside Africa has been the developments toward a lasting settlement in the Middle East. The danger of that troubled area developing once more into a global situation with huge economic and social (cause) can never be overlooked. And so we welcome any moves which reduce tension and bring the separate nations closer together.

Swaziland with its long association with the state of Israel gives particular credit to the decision by the Israeli people and government to take the road of negotiation and reconciliation. It is one that we have supported constantly for many years. Despite the delays and setbacks, we are encouraged by the efforts of both sides—Palestinians and Israel—to push forward with the agreement signed last September. Let us hope that this first step in the process to real peace in the region can continue, and we trust that other steps to include all the people of the Middle East will soon create an atmosphere in which countries there can develop peacefully without the constant threat of violence and disaster.

And here in Africa the tragedy of civil war and internal strife in so many countries continues to affect the economic development of the continent as a whole and serves as a lesson to us all on the importance of maintaining unity within nations. The UN operation in Somalia has been the most expensive in the organization's history. With the withdrawal of most of the UN force in two months' time, let us pray that the lives, resources, and effort which have been expanded over the past year will not be wasted by a return to the bloodshed of recent history.

In Sudan, the ongoing conflict between different ethnic groups has resulted not only in death and destruction, but has caused the enforced movement of many thousands of refugees who now tax the resources of countries which are obliged to act as their temporary hosts. The economic effect of refugees on a country is one that we here can well understand and sympathize with.

And perhaps most tragic of all is the continuation of the daily shedding of blood in Angola, a country whose people have known no peace for over 20 years and who are paying the appalling price of the use of force to resolve their differences. As fellow member of two organizations of economic cooperation, the resolution of the conflict in Angola has particular importance for us. We hope that the negotiations underway in Lusaka signal the start of lasting peace to that unfortunate country so that her huge natural and human resources can contribute effectively to the economic future of our subregion.

Clearly though the economic implications to Swaziland of the situations in our two neighbors, Mozambique and South Africa, deserve our closest attention. The process of peace in Mozambique appears to be on course, and we congratulate all who have contributed toward its success

so far. The effect on our economy of a stable and prosperous Mozambique cannot be overemphasized, and we must be doing all we can now not just to support the process, but to understand how best we can prepare ourselves to take the fullest advantage of a return to peace in our neighbor. It is imperative that we keep the channels of communication at all levels between governments, NGO's [nongovernmental organizations], and the private sector as open and as active as possible. Our shared border holds many possibilities for mutual economic improvement including increased trade, joint tourism projects, and the greater use by us of Mozambique's access to the sea. The success of the refugee repatriation program is the first indication of the importance we must attach to increasing cooperation with Mozambique and government must accept this as a major priority.

The same is true of our other neighbor, South Africa. The change in policy and direction of a new nonracial government in South Africa is undoubtedly the single most important factor for Swaziland's economic future. We would do well to fully understand the implications to us of change in a neighbor on whom we rely so heavily. The initiative lies with us to open the lines of communication with those with whom we will be dealing in future. With new figures in power in South Africa, it will be up to us to inform and educate about the needs of the Kingdom and to discuss with them the possibilities for increased economic cooperation. Of particular relevance are our shared natural resources, our various financial links and our numerous trade agreements. We must not ignore the significance to Swaziland of change in South Africa, and government must take the lead in establishing links as early as possible.

It follows that it is in Swaziland's best interest for South Africa to enjoy as peaceful a transition as possible to a stable and prosperous future. We, therefore, look with concern at the potential for disruption to the process toward elections in April of the non-involvement of large sections of South African society. We have constantly urged all parties in South Africa to grasp this opportunity to be a part of their country's future, and we continue to do so. Instability across our border has the gravest implications for us and we must do all we can to encourage a smooth transition.

One important aspect of a new South Africa, and one that has been in focus recently, is the future of those Swazis who through the unjust laws of Swazi territory over the years find themselves unwillingly members of a country which is not their own. The world should be left in no doubt that we are doing all in our power through peaceful negotiation to restore to the Kingdom the land and the people we have lost through a process of historical injustice. The recent establishment of a border adjustment committee signals our intention to proceed with this issue at the highest levels. The nation will also be aware that I raised the subject on a number of occasions last year, including at the United Nations. In the event that we do not achieve our aims before a

change in government in South Africa, we are of course prepared to talk to those who will have been given the mandate to act as a result of the elections in April. History and the facts are on our side, and I'm confident that justice will be done.

And so we come to the issue of the Kingdom's economy at national level. Clearly the world recession, recent drought, and the number of international factors have combined to ensure very difficult economic times ahead for Swaziland. Our challenge as a nation is to identify the areas of problem, and then to formulate strategies which will ensure the economic stability and prosperity of the Swazi people for many generations to come.

I mentioned last year that following on from the successes of the consultation of the nation on our political future, the same process would be used to decide the Kingdom's economic choices. I intend summoning the nation in the very near future to propose a four-stage process aimed first at educating us all to the economic realities of the Kingdom. Then gathering opinion on our national development priorities, seeking views on how best to frame our strategy, and finally deciding on how we implement them. The first two steps require the active involvement of all Swazis.

The first stage, one of education, is vitally important as it is central to the process that we will all understand the limitations and realities of composing a national development plan within an underdeveloped country such as ours. We must acknowledge that there are no easy overnight solutions to our economic difficulties, and that the most important ingredients for future success will be hard work, sacrifice, and dedication.

The second stage will also involve the support of all Swazis, young and old. This is when we will confirm the nation's priority objectives, the direction to be given to government for the Kingdom's development. Key objectives from the past which still hold good today include economic growth, sustainable development, self-reliance, equity and participation, and social justice and stability. We will need to confirm these, and if necessary, amend or add to them. I should like to highlight some of the more important aspects of each objective to give focus for discussion.

The key to our future is clearly to achieve growth in our economy. The creation of jobs and the increase in gross domestic product must be central to any development strategy. How to achieve this will be a major point for debate in the process of national consultation ahead. One aspect for discussion with regard to job creation is the problem of how to create the right environment for investment both by Swazis and by international investors.

For Swazis the provision of capital and knowledge, with which to start up businesses, is perhaps the most vital. For foreign investment the provision of a business environment which is attractive in terms of incentives, infrastructure, skilled work force, and good industrial

relations is crucial to success. These issues are being addressed within government, but the nation will want to contribute to the debate with ideas and not by action on how to improve this vital area.

Hand in hand with economic growth is the need to ensure that our development is sustainable, that we can manage to control and improve our economy to ensure constant progress over the years ahead to get us through times of global recession.

While acknowledging the importance of close economic cooperation with other countries in the region, it is nonetheless that we do everything possible to stand on our own in terms of producing the basic everyday requirements such as foodstuffs and essential manufactured goods. We must grasp the message that to rely on imports is to be at the mercy of changes in the world crisis and to miss out on business opportunities. Emphasis must surely be placed on self-reliance.

Since the days when we first considered ourselves to be a distinct separate nation, a fundamental theme in protecting the unity and independence of the Swazi people has been the quality of all members of the Swazi family and the active participation of all in the decisions affecting the Kingdom. This principle was central to the process of political reform over the last two years and guides us in the economic debate ahead.

And finally, an element of our national objectives which has drawn the nation together and one that has ensured our independence, is the principle of social justice resulting in peace and stability for the Kingdom for so many generations. When we survey the state of perhaps the majority of countries on our continent, we would do well to reflect on the importance of these final two principles, and to realize how sensible we have been in the past to insist on the maintenance of peace and stability through a policy of social justice at all costs.

Of course the stability of our country depends on many factors. One is the physical security of the Kingdom and the efficiency of those entrusted with maintaining our system of justice. In these days of increasing crime, there has been a marked decrease in confidence in our ability as a nation to enforce the law. The police and the courts in particular are finding their resources and capabilities stretched to the limit and new answers to this crisis need to be found.

One encouraging move is the recent undertaking by the police force to establish close working groups with the civilian community, and this is clearly an initiative which deserves all our support. Crime prevention is the social responsibility of us all, and not an issue to be shrugged off as a problem for the police alone. And for the courts, plans are already in hand to expand existing facilities and courts so that the backlog in cases can be based [as heard] and the administration of justice to be made more efficient.

Equally important though is the relationship between the police and the courts. There must be a mutual understanding and sympathy between these two critical elements of our justice system. The two must work in harmony and with closer cooperation toward achieving an overall raising of confidence in the processes of the law. We will be calling for views on how to improve in this vital area in the months ahead.

These then are some of the more important aspects of our national objectives, which the nation will be asked to consider during the process of consultation, and I would appeal to all in the Kingdom to give serious thought to the various questions raised.

Closely linked to our national development objectives is the confirmation of government priorities on spending. This is an issue that will occupy members of both houses following presentation of the budget by the minister for finance. Since independence, our three highest priorities for government spending have been health, education, and agriculture. These are recognized as being fundamental to the objectives of any developing country. But the nation will be asked to confirm whether in each case the specific targets for spending in each area is correct, and indeed whether other areas deserve more attention.

The provision of adequate health care to all members of the Swazi nation continues to demand our concern. New challenges in this field confront us as we strive to increase health facilities. To make existing ones more efficient [word indistinct] of most agents to educate our people about the importance of health care and the prevention of diseases.

We have all been shocked to learn of the extent of the spread in the Kingdom of the killer disease, AIDS. Swaziland, along with many other countries, stands to lose whole generations to this menace. Unless we act with haste to contain the danger, the real enemy to finding a solution to this potential devastating problem, ignorance—ignorance of what this disease is, ignorance of what we can do to prevent it, and ignorance of the effect on our future if we fail to contain it.

This is a challenge for us all to confront. We all have a role to play in educating others to the dangers. There must be a wholesale change in attitude to our social behavior. The only alternative is to witness a tragedy occur which will undermine all our development efforts and result in a future of misery for our children. We require a national policy on this issue, and we look to you seated here to give the nation its direction.

A central principle since independence has been our belief that a nation's future is dependent on the products of its schools. Access to education is right for all Swazis, and this remains a guiding objective for government today. There has been a long debate on the issue of what some call free education. This is an issue the nation shall be addressing in our forthcoming debate on the national

strategies. It must be acknowledged though before discussion begins that there is no such thing as free education. In the end the nation will pay, whether perhaps through higher taxes or a change in government spending. There is clearly no magic source of funds to pay for free education. Swaziland must pay for Swazis to be educated. Nor is this something that can be changed in the short term. Whatever the outcome of national debate on this issue, there will be no overnight miracle to cancel the bill to Swazis for our education.

Perhaps of more immediate concern and an issue that can be addressed in the short term is that of the direction of our education. The question is: Are we preparing Swazis with the right training, knowledge, and skills to enter the market place as workers? This is something for the nation to consider in the months ahead and for government now to reflect on.

The third pillar of our current priorities is the development of our agricultural policies and the support given by government to our farmers. Agriculture remains the stable employment for the majority of Swazis and the foundation of our economy. It deserves its place at the top of the nation's priorities. However, the development and direction of our agricultural policies and the degree and extent on government support to our farmers is another subject for debate. We look for the individual input of ideas from the farming community toward the development of a national agricultural strategy. Our economic future depends to a large degree on the performance of the agricultural sector, and this will be central to our national development plan.

An aspect of agriculture which has been ignored too much and which requires the urgent attention of the members of both houses here is the continuing decline in the state of our environment and the abuse of our natural resources. It is a poor worker who does not look after the tools of his trade. For a country whose main employment is centered on the fruits of the soil, we must recognize that our most important asset is the land we have inherited from our forefathers. We must do all we can to protect our natural resources for without them we are nothing.

To protect does not mean to avoid using. Indeed in some respects we under use our natural resources. Certainly as an example, recent experience has taught us that we cannot expect by right to receive sufficient rainfall every year to sustain us, and that we must prepare ourselves in future to make more use of the precious water resources in the Kingdom. This includes more emphasis on the construction of dams and the identifying of other sources of water for our irrigation needs. But equally we ignore at our peril the dangers of overuse of other natural resources. We must conserve our priceless assets so that they will provide for future generations as they have for the past. Our soil, our trees, our rivers, our livestock, and

our wildlife. These are part of the rich fabric of Swaziland and must be preserved at all cost. They are the tools of our most important trade. We must look after them.

Earlier when discussing the impact on our economy of global free trade, I referred to the requirement for us to become more competitive as producers and suggested that efficiency was the key. This requirement for efficiency extends beyond the private sector and could perhaps become the watchword for all national business. Leading the way in this regard should be government and those organizations supported by government, the parastatals.

With a new start for government, this is the ideal time to introduce the notion of efficient practice in all public sector dealings. Improved efficiency equals increased productivity and, in the case of parastatals, this is something the nation expects to see. Too much of government's precious resources are spent on supporting the inefficiency of companies who should be self-sufficient and independent of public subventions.

Let us see the introduction of controlled measures on the performance of government and the parastatals and let improved efficiency in the public sector be an example to private business.

Before I include, I should like to address a few remarks to our friend in the international community. First, allow me on behalf of Her Majesty the Indlovukazi, the government, and the whole Swazi nation to express my deep gratitude to you all for your continuing support and share the experience toward the development of the nation. That support has been generous and well directed in the past, and it is my hope that you will be able to continue to assist us as we decide on the way ahead. My theme today has been to focus the attention of the members of both houses of the nation's parliament and of the Kingdom's as a whole on to the economic challenge for Swaziland in the years to come.

During the process of consultation with all Swazis which will begin very shortly, we will be approaching the international community for advice based on experience gained in your own countries and elsewhere. This is an opportunity for your countries to be part of this important stage in our development and we will result in a detailed analysis of the targets for future development assistance. We urge to help us find the right way forward. [preceding two sentences as heard]

I have spoken at length about the challenge facing the nation in the years ahead. These are exciting times and you members of Parliament, Assembly and Senate are at the very center of the decision-making process. We ask for God's guidance in your deliberations in these chambers, and we urge you to reflect on the huge responsibility you share for the future of our Kingdom. You have our confidence and trust. We ask that you perform your duties to the nation with honor, loyalty, and dignity.

Thank you. God bless these proceedings.

Ghana

Task Force Members Fire at Mob in Tamale

AB0203142094 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1300 GMT 2 Feb 94

[Text] A contingent of the task force stationed in Tamale was yesterday called upon to observe an imminent attack by a group made up of predominantly Dagomba youths on Kokomba elements, who are reported to have gone to the Tamale branch of the Agricultural Development Bank to transact business. The contingent was also called upon to forestall a possible invasion of the bank by the group.

A statement issued in Accra today by the Ministry of Information said attempts to restrain the mob by peaceful means failed to bring the situation under control. The contingent was therefore compelled to fire warning shots in order to calm the situation and to disperse the crowd. Again, this failed and as an attack on the contingent itself became imminent, it was forced to fire in self-defense resulting in the death of eight persons in the crowd while 21 others were injured.

The statement said the government deeply regrets the incident and conveys to the families of the deceased its deepest condolences. The government also deplores the latest attack on a policeman by a mob in Tamale, as a result of which he is in coma. The statement reiterated the government's appeal for restraint on the part of all factions involved in the clashes in the conflict areas of the Northern region.

Meanwhile, a government delegation, led by the minister of defense and chairman of the Emergency Committee, Alhaji Mahama Iddrisu, is on its way to Tamale to assess the situation. The minister of interior, Colonel Osei-Wusu, is also on the delegation.

[In the same newscast, the radio also carries in its press review section, the following related item: "The DAILY GRAPHIC and the GHANAIAN TIMES carry reports of a heavy bomb blast last Monday at the Korle-Dudo Hawkers' Market within the premises of the Kokomba market in Accra. The blast, which observers believe is a spillover of the ethnic conflict in the Northern Region, seriously injured three persons, who were asleep. A victim of the blast alleged that earlier, three persons in military uniform came to the market at about 1030 that night and ordered children who were playing around the area to leave. According to the caretaker of the market, a small boy around the area was also found holding a live grenade with the pin intact showing it to his mother as a crab he had found."]

12 Reported Killed

AB0203190394 Dakar PANA in English 1826 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Accra, 2 Mar (GNA/PANA)—Twelve people were killed and 21 others wounded when soldiers shot to

disperse a crowd that besieged the Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) in Tamale, Ghana's northern regional capital on Monday [1 March], police said in Accra on Tuesday. Nine of the victims died during the incident while three died later in hospital, a police spokesman said.

He said the crowd had marched on the bank when word went round that a Kokomba man was inside to cash some money, apparently to lynch him. "The bank called in the soldiers after the crowd refused to heed appeals to disperse after failure to convince them that no Kokomba man was inside", the police spokesman said. When the soldiers failed to disperse the crowd by shooting into the air, "they started shooting into the crowd which had by then started stoning them".

The incident has undermined the relative calm that had slowly returned to the municipality over the past two weeks, after previous incidents of rioting, killings, arson and looting, in the wake of the Kokomba-Nanumba ethnic conflict, which later engulfed the north to include the Dagombas and Gonjas. The Tamale municipality is predominantly Dagomba.

The National Mobilisation Programme (NMP) said over 120,000 people have so far been registered as refugees and are being held in schools, mosques, church compounds, police stations and military barracks in the conflict areas.

More than 1,000 corpses had been buried following the fighting, which erupted after a Nanumba killed a Kokomba man in a marketplace row over the price of a guinea fowl. Several others either died in the bush or were thrown into rivers or burnt alive in their houses.

The police said all markets within the Tamale Municipality had been temporarily closed down and a night curfew continues while a three-month state of emergency has been clamped on the conflict areas of Gushiegu/Karaga, Zabzugu/Tatale, east Gonja, Nanumba, Saboba/Chereponi and Yendi.

Meanwhile, police said three persons were injured Tuesday night when a grenade exploded at the Yam market in Accra, popularly known as "Kokomba market" because the Kokombas who are mainly Yam farmers are engaged in the supply and distribution of the food stuff to that market. They named the three, who were described as traders, as Kwaku Sasu and Eric Danso, on admission with serious injuries and Joseph Asare, who had been treated and discharged.

"No one has claimed responsibility for the explosion and no one has been arrested. But we believe the incident is a spillover of the Kokomba-Nanumba conflict in the northern region", they said.

They said one unexploded grenade was found at the site of the incident, and that the injured were asleep when the grenade exploded. Police said three men in military

uniform were seen in the market area about the time of the incident and that investigations are going on.

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) has postponed indefinitely the district election slated for 22 March in the entire northern region and parts of the Volta and Brong-Ahafo regions which experienced a spillover of the conflict.

Liberia

ULIMO Soldiers Resist ECOMOG Troop Deployment

*AB0203164394 Paris AFP in French 1413 GMT
2 Mar 94*

[Text] Monrovia 2 Mar (AFP)—An AFP journalist in Monrovia has observed that on 2 March, United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia, [ULIMO] soldiers stationed at Po River, 20 km east of Monrovia, opposed the deployment of Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group [ECOMOG] troops to their sector. ULIMO is an armed Liberian faction.

The deployment began on 1 March throughout the country to disarm all the factions. In principle, this should have begun under UN supervision on 7 March.

ULIMO guards at the Po River checkpoint told AFP: "We will not allow ECOMOG to be deployed to our sector because we have not received orders to that effect." They also reiterated their request for "financial compensation before handing over their arms."

Last week, ULIMO chairman, Alhaji Koromah, asked for \$5 million from the United Nations to fund the reintegration of his troops into civilian life.

On 1 March, General Ian Douglas, coordinator of the reinsertion program of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia, indicated that an "emergency fund" of \$180,000 would be granted.

During a visit to the Armed Forces of Liberia [AFL] camp in Schieffelin, 20 km east of Monrovia, Gen. Douglas stressed that "the aid would be effective only after disarmament, camping, and demobilization" of the forces of the three leading armed factions, the AFL, ULIMO, and the National Patriotic Front of Liberia.

Mali

Student Leader Arrested; Unrest Reported

AB0303105494 Bamako Radiodiffusion-Television du Mali Radio in French 0700 GMT 3 Mar 94

[Text] According to various sources, Yehia Oud Zarawana, general secretary of the Association of Malian Students and Pupils [AEEM], was reportedly arrested yesterday morning. Our sources stated that his arrest

might be in connection with investigations into the 15 February disturbances during which several public buildings as well as private homes and offices were ransacked and burned down.

[Dakar PANA in French in a Bamako-dated report at 0946 GMT on 3 March adds the following: "Some agitation was reported in the Malian capital last night following the arrest earlier in the day of Yehia Oud Zarawana, AEEM general secretary. Pitched battles took place in several districts between security forces and youth seeking to "damage" government vehicles in their anger at the arrest of the AEEM leader."]

Niger

Opposition Parties Issue Communiqué on Rebellion

AB0203175594 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Statement issued by four opposition political parties in Niamey on 2 March following a meeting on armed rebellion; read by Sanni Bako, information and propaganda secretary of the National Movement of Development Society-Nassara—recorded]

[Text] We, the Alliance for Democracy and Social Progress-Zoumounchi, the National Movement of Development Society-Nassara, the Union of Popular Forces for Democracy and Progress-Sawaba, the Union of Progressive Patriots and Democrats-Chamoua, after meeting today and thoroughly analyzing the document entitled Armed Resistance's Global Program, which was referred to us by the president of the Republic through his letter dated 22 February, make the following statement:

First, the national and international opinion notes that the demands of the armed rebellion in our country seriously jeopardizes national unity and territorial integrity. Those demands are the logical consequences of the ostrich policy and shady deals that this problem has engendered since the end of the sovereign national conference. Second, all the demands made by the armed rebellion should be examined in the strict respect for the provisions of the 26 December 1992 Constitution, whose guarantor is the president of the Republic. Third, in the face of the armed rebellion's determination to continue its repeated deadly attacks, we urgently call on the government to take all the appropriate measures to ensure the security of people and goods throughout the country. Fourth, and finally, we condemn and call for an end to all the maneuvers, manipulations, and other machinations from inside and outside aimed at partitioning Niger. In this regard, we urge the president of the Republic to assess the historic, political, and legal significance of the oath he took before God as well as the Niger people and therefore assume all his responsibilities.

Nigeria

Kingibe on French Role in Dispute With Cameroon

AB0203225094 Lagos NTA Television Network in English 2000 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The Federal Government has expressed indignation over the internationalization of the territorial dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon by the French Government. Briefing media executives in Lagos this evening on the latest developments around the Bakassi Peninsula, the foreign affairs minister, Ambassador Babagana Kingibe, said the federal government's position is that Nigeria and Cameroon can resolve the dispute peacefully, having been traditionally good neighbors. He said the French should hold themselves fully responsible for the consequences of any direct military confrontation between Nigeria and Cameroon.

[Begin Kingibe recording] We hold the French responsible for internationalizing it, for encouraging the Cameroonian to go from pillar to post; they are ones who provided the Cameroonian three French lawyers—international law lawyers—to go to the Hague to try and file the case at that tribunal. They are the ones who strategized for them to wait until they become the president of Security Council, which was in force yesterday, before they took the matter of Bakassi, and they are the ones who internationalized and introduced an element of war by bringing in their troops into the region where, in fact, the conditions for inviting their local defense staff did not exist. [end recording]

Discussing the situation on the ground, Ambassador Kingibe said the Cameroonian Army has already been placed on the alert and the French troops and military hardware are on the ground in that country. He also warned if nothing is done quickly to return to dialogue, the situation might explode. He said that while Nigeria is mobilizing all diplomatic machinery at its disposal to ensure a peaceful resolution of the dispute, it is prepared

and has the full capacity to defend every inch of its territory and protect the lives and property of all Nigerians.

Foreign Ministry correspondent Godfried Agor reports that Nigeria cannot be bothered by an International Court ruling since the document disputed, dating far beyond the colonial era, confirms Nigeria's ownership of the disputed territory.

Delegation Leaves To Open Mission in South Africa

AB0203200794 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 1700 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] Nigeria has opened a mission in Pretoria, South Africa. A Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Ambassador Boko York, said in Abuja today that Nigerian charge d'affaires, Mr. (Korpo), and a minister in the ministry have already left in company of five other officials to open Nigeria's first mission in that country. Ambassador York said that the departure of the team was delayed due to logistic and financial reasons. According to him, another team of officials will soon leave for South Africa to open a consular office in Johannesburg. Ambassador York added that Nigeria plans to establish full diplomatic relations with South Africa after next month's elections in that country.

Abuja University Closed Down After Violence

AB0203101094 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 2 Mar 94

[Text] The University of Abuja has been closed down. That followed a violent demonstration by the students during which the vice chancellor's office and two vehicles belonging to the institution were set ablaze. Radio Nigeria correspondents who visited the university campus report that a detachment of security agents is being stationed there to maintain law and order. The students had embarked on demonstrations to press their demand for a clarification of the legal (?status of the institution).

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